

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

OMB-01 AID-05 PC-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 /083 W

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R 060931Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3861

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 1871

FOLLOWING TEL MADRAS 0225 DTD 05 FEB 76 RCVD NEW DELHI  
BEING REPEATED TO YOU. QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRAS 0225

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJECT: TAMIL NADU SITUATION

1. FROM ALL REPORTS, THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION REMAINS QUIET THROUGHOUT THE STATE. HOWEVER, AS REPORTED MADRAS 0222, LARGE SCALE ARRESTS ARE CONTINUING, AND THE TOTAL TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IS NOW, ACCORDING TO POLICE SOURCES, MORE THAN 7400. SOME OF THE POLITICAL DETENUS ARE BEING SHIFTED TO OTHER STATES. THE TAMIL LANGUAGE DMK NEWSPAPER, MURASOLI, CONTINUES FOR THE SECOND DAY' TO LIST THE NAMES OF PERSONS "UNABLE TO VISIT THE ANNA SAMADHI," WITH THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT THEY ARE UNDER ARREST. YESTERDAY'S LIST CONTAINED THE NAMES OF 30 DMK AND DK OFFICIALS, AND TODAY'S INCLUDES ANOTHER 35.

2. ALL PICTURES OF KARUNANIDHI, EVEN CALENDARS CONTAINING HIS PICTURE, HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES. TODAY'S PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT THE TAMIL NADU TOURIST FAIR CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN MADRAS WAS CLOSED ON TUESDAY "FOR REMODELLING," THAT IT IS LIKELY TO REOPEN ON THURSDAY, AND THAT "PROGRESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN UNDER THE PRIME MINISTER'S 20-POINT ECONOMIC

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PROGRAM WILL BE DISPLAYED AT THE PAVILLIONS." (COMMENT: IN

PLACE OF THE EXHIBITS FEATURING THE DMK GOVERNMENT'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS. THE TWO ADVISERS TO THE GOVERNOR VISITED THE FAIR ON TUESDAY.)

3. KARUNANIDHI HIMSELF REMAINS IN A DEFIANT MOOD. HE MET THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN MEDIA (INCLUDING PAUL CHUTKOW OF AP) AND HIT BACK HARD AT MRS. GANDHI, PULLING NO PUNCHES. HOWEVER, HE DID STRESS HIS DETERMINATION NOT TO ENCOURAGE OR SANCTION ANY AGITATION OR VIOLENT ACTIVITY. YESTERDAY HE TOLD NEWSMEN HE WELCOMED THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SARKARIA COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO CERTAIN ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIMSELF AND SOME MEMBERS OF HIS MINISTRY. HE SAID THAT THE ALLEGATIONS MADE THREE YEARS AGO HAD NOW BEEN REPEATED. THEY WERE REFUTED THEN AND DETAILS WERE PLACED ON THE TABLE OF THE LEGISLATURE. "EVEN NOW I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN BEFORE THE COMMISSION." HE REMINDED THE NEWSMEN THAT DURING THE 1962 CHINESE INVASION ANNADURAI HAD ASKED DMK PARTY MEN TO WORK TO STRENGTHEN THE HANDS OF THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, AND THAT AT THE TIME OF BANGLADESH, THE DMK HAD EXTENDED FULL SUPPORT TO THE CENTER. MURASOLI REPORTS THAT, AT THE WEDDING OF A DMK EX-MLA'S DAUGHTER YESTERDAY, KARUNANIDHI, IN REMARKS GREETING THE NEWLY MARRIED COUPLE, SAID: "SURELY THE OPPONENTS WILL SMART AND GET JEALOUS THAT WE ARE MANAGING OUR FAMILY AFFAIRS IN A GOOD MANNER AND THAT WE ARE APPRECIATED BY THE PUBLIC, FOREIGNERS, AND EVEN OUR OPPONENTS IN PRIVATE... BUT REMEMBER WHEN THEY POINT THEIR FINGER AT US ACCUSING US, THREE OTHER FINGERS POINT BACK TO THEM."

4. INDIAN EXPRESS HAS FRONT-PAGE CARTOON DEPICTING TWO FIGURES, ONE KARUNANIDHI AND THE OTHER LOOKING LIKE VINOBA BHAVE, WITH THE LATTER ASKING: "KARUNANIDHI, DOES IT MATTER IF SELF-DISCIPLINE IS SOMETIMES IMPOSED FROM NEW DELHI?"

5. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT GROUPS SUCH AS MADRAS CONGRESS LAWYERS COUNCIL AND TAMIL NADU ANNA DMK LAWYERS COUNCIL WELCOMED THE IMPOSITION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE AND THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SARKARIA COMMISSION AND THAT VARIOUS CONGRESS OFFICIALS HAVE CALLED FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION AGAINST ALL DMK MPS AND MLAS AND PROBES INTO THE OPERATION UNDER THE DMK OF THE STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD, THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, AND THE COOPERATIVES.

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